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ISAND

Integrated Services for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders

DR. WENDY ROBERTS STEPS AWAY FROM CLINICAL PRACTICE



Dr. Wendy Roberts, principal founder of ISAND is stepping away from direct client care at ISAND and moving to an advisory role providing guidance and consultation to ISAND clinicians.

Since the 1990's Dr. Roberts has been at the forefront of Autism Spectrum Disorder research, education, treatment, and advocacy. While leading the Child Development Centre at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, better known as Sick Kids, Dr. Roberts became the co-creator of the Autism Research Unit also at Sick Kids. That unit conducted research in early signs of autism, genetics, and lived experiences.

The Child Development Centre and its clinicians moved to Holland Bloorview. At the new location, conversations started to happen with Dr. Roberts and professionals from several disciplines about the need to provide ASD treatment services in a better way. Conversations started to take place on a regular basis amongst "a whole bunch of brilliant people with different backgrounds dreaming about what we could put together for families, for clients" noted Jennifer Levine OT Reg. (Ont.).

As the group started meeting more frequently, the model for ISAND was formulated. "Wendy was the catalyst". In 2013 ISAND became a reality and since its inception, has grown to provide integrated, evidence based therapy to more than five hundred children and their families annually. (For the full story of the ISAND founding, please contact the ISAND office to secure a copy of the book, "Toward the Light: ISAND's Founding Story")

We are so happy to announce that the ISAND community will continue to benefit from the wisdom, expertise and knowledge of Dr. Roberts as she continues to advise and consult with our clinicians.





TRIBUTE EVENT FOR DR. WENDY ROBERTS



On Saturday April 2, friends, clients, family and colleagues gathered to honour the contributions that Dr. Wendy Roberts has made to the field of Autism and the establishment of ISAND. More than sixty people attended in-person with another forty joining virtually to celebrate and honour Dr.

Roberts' achievements. Guests had the opportunity to mingle, get caught up on friendships and sample a tasty array of hors d'oeuvres before and after the evening's set program.

Dr. Roberts will be ending her direct client consultations, however, she will stay connected with ISAND by providing consultation and advice to ISAND clinicians.

Hosted by ISAND's Board Chair, Tina Capobianco, the tribute portion of the evening included guest speakers, a video tribute, gift presentation and the announcement of the **Dr. Wendy Roberts Bursary**. The Bursary has been established to help families directly access services and programs from ISAND, and indirectly through supporting specialized clinical training, the purchase and maintenance of equipment needed for assessment and therapy, and to help secure and support a developmental paediatrician for the ISAND team.

Click here to watch video tribute – to watch the entire video, both sections must be watched:

PART 1

PART 2

WELCOME

ISAND would like to welcome the following Team Members who have joined us since the last newsletter was published:

BEATRIZ DELA VEGA, B.A. Psychology
CLINICAL FRONT DESK ASSOCIATE

Beatriz, a recent psychology student graduate, has always gravitated towards health care institutions. She is passionate in providing service within the health care field through various administrative duties whilst gaining valuable clinical experience. Through ISAND, Beatriz aims to further immerse herself within the mental health care field and to make an impact whenever and wherever possible.

ELIZABETH (LIZ) RUDYK, B.A. (Hons), Autism and Behavioural Science

COORDINATOR CLINICAL SERVICES AND INTAKE

Liz comes to ISAND with more than seven years' experience

working as an ABA Therapist providing therapy to children with ASD and their families individually and in group settings. Additional training in the PEERS Program (Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills) have provided her with a solid background for leading social skills groups. Liz is looking forward to working as part of the collaborative team at ISAND helping families thrive.

BEA BULOSAN, BSc. H.K. and Neuroscience, ONTABA
BEHAVIOUR THERAPIST, SOCIAL PEERS FACILITATOR

Bea joined ISAND in April 2022 as a Social Peers Group Facilitator. Bea has worked with a range of clients with ASD in clinics, schools and home settings. Bea has experience working with children who are developing foundational skills, learners who have high behavioural needs, and adolescents working on academic and social skills. Bea has taken special interest in social skills development and emotional regulation for children with ASD.

ANNOUNCING THE DR. WENDY ROBERTS BURSARY

Each year, ISAND clinicians provide therapeutic services and programs to more than five hundred young people with ASD and or other neurodevelopmental disorders. A significant number of those accessing our services require financial help to participate in our treatment programs. Historically, ISAND has been able to directly help these families through the **Helping Hands Fund**.

Besides providing direct assistance to families, we have discovered that there are also at least three indirect ways of doing so:

The first is the acquisition and maintenance of resources; therapy tools and equipment are needed on a daily basis.

Secondly, we have to provide specialized training for clinicians to ensure that therapy techniques are up to date, are evidence informed and will result in maximum benefit to clients.

Thirdly, Developmental Paediatricians and Physicians are key members of our integrated team. Their input, and in some cases, oversight are necessary to complete the circle of care for clients. Unfortunately, much of what we ask these professionals to do is considered to be work outside the scope of OHIP billable services. To attract

and retain Developmental Paediatricians and other Physicians we want to find ways to help pay for some of their non OHIP billable assessments, treatment time, and any required admin supports.

We are pleased to announce, that ISAND will address these priority areas through the creation of the **Dr. Wendy Roberts Bursary** – a fund that will help families both directly and indirectly. Named for our principal founder, long time Autism Therapist, Researcher and Advocate, **Dr. Wendy Roberts**, the bursary will continue to help clients and their families achieve successful outcomes at ISAND. Contributions to the Bursary will be eligible for CRA Charitable Donation receipts and will be recognized as agreed to by the donors.

Launched publicly on April 2, 2022 at a Tribute event for Dr. Roberts, the financial goal for this year has been established at \$350,000. **As of April 2, more than \$140,000** has been donated to date. To contribute, please log onto www.isand.ca go to the DONATE button and find the Bursary page. ISAND will also accept donations through cheque delivered by mail or in person to 500-5734 Yonge St., Toronto M2M 4E7



DAVID CUBIDES, B.A. Psych, M.Ed, BCBA

David joined the ISAND team in March 2022 as a Behaviour Consultant, have worked with children with ASD since 2016. Fluent in Spanish, English and French, David brings warmth and enthusiasm to his work. David will be providing individual Behaviour Therapy and will also be facilitating Social Peers groups. He comes to ISAND with a background in Naturalistic approaches.

SAMARA FRANCIA, BPHE, Bed, MSc. O.T., COTO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Samara has received her Masters of Occupational Therapy from McMaster University in 2005 and has worked in the field of Occupational Therapy (Pediatrics) since graduating. Samara has worked in schools, private clinics, client homes, developmental screening clinics and hospital based treatment

programs for infants and children. Samara specializes in the areas of Sensory Integration and Fine Motor Skill development. To compliment her Occupational Therapy expertise, Samara has taken training and developed skills in: Yoga instruction, Reiki Level 1; and Guided Imagery/meditation. Samara has also participated in a number of workshops including those focussed on: neurodevelopmental treatment for children with ASD, Therapeutic listening; and Sensory Integration.

GOODBYE & THANK YOU

Bethe Goswell, Intake Coordinator
June Weekes, Program Coordinator
Alyssa Johnston, OT
Barri Trager, OT
Sami Cohen, SLP
Carolyn Spavor, SLP
Lauren Strub, SLP

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Different Not Less

Volunteer Spotlight Tareq Hasan

Tareq joined ISAND as an IT volunteer in July 2020. Tareq is a multi-skilled IT manager with over 10 years of experience in IT and Graphic design. Since 2020 he has overseen many updates of the content and format of the website and provided many hours of volunteer time.

Thank you so much for the immeasurably valuable work you have done for ISAND! We have not thanked you enough, and want to let you know that your dedication is essential to the work that we do. With volunteers like you, we have a chance to help many and make this world a better place. Thank you for all your hard work. It makes all the difference. For information on Tareq's services.

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User-centered visual plan of website composition to assist organizations to accomplish their objectives with convenience and effortlessness.

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Eye catchy Business card, Letterhead, Identity card, Book cover, Flyer, Newsletter and many more.

Contact:

Tarequl Hasan
tarequlhasan@gmail.com

'EMPLOYABLE ME' HAS WON A CANADIAN SCREEN AWARD

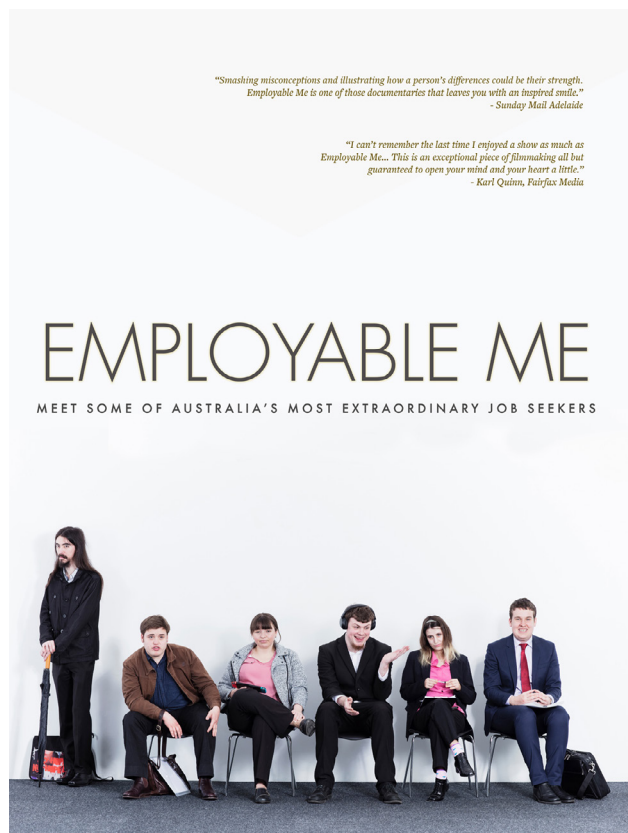
ISAND is thrilled to announce that the Television Series Employable Me has won a Canadian Screen Award for best factual series. One episode features Dr. Wendy Roberts and two ISAND clients. Here is the news release:

TORONTO, April 5, 2022 / CNW/ - AMI is thrilled to announce that Season four of its series Employable Me, produced by [Thomas Howe Associates Inc.](#) (THA), has won a 2022 Canadian Screen Award. Employable Me received Best Factual Series in the Documentary & Factual categories during Monday's live stream on [Academy.ca](#). Employable Me was nominated in this category in 2017 and 2019.

Employable Me is a documentary series featuring Canadian job seekers who are determined to prove that having a physical disability or neurological condition shouldn't make them unemployable. The series provides an honest and emotional look at the challenges individuals of varying abilities face in the job market. All episodes of Employable Me feature Integrated Described Video, where description is incorporated during the production phase, along with closed captioning making the series fully accessible.

"We are extremely proud of the team at Thomas Howe Associates Inc. for capturing a Canadian Screen Award for Employable Me," said John Melville, Vice-President, Content Development & Programming, AMI-audio/AMI-tv. "AMI is honoured to support a series that conveys such a powerful message of inclusion and determination."

"Working on a series that strives to change attitudes toward people with disabilities in the workplace has been both humbling and rewarding," said Thomas



Howe, THA president and executive producer. "We are very grateful to everyone who has supported us in this project."

All four seasons of Employable Me are available to stream online at [AMI.ca](#) or on the AMI-tv App, available for Apple and Android devices.

Employable Me is produced by THA in partnership with AMI and TVO and in association with the Bell Fund and the Canadian Media Fund. The format is licensed by All3Media International.

ABOUT ACCESSIBLE MEDIA INC.

AMI is a not-for-profit media company that entertains, informs and empowers Canadians who are blind or partially sighted. Operating three broadcast services, AMI-tv and AMI-audio in English and AMI-télé in French, AMI's vision is to establish and support a voice for Canadians with disabilities, representing their interests, concerns and values through accessible media, reflection and portrayal. To learn more visit [AMI.ca](#) and [AMItélé.ca](#).



SOURCE Accessible Media Inc. (AMI)

List of Donors 2021/2022

ISAND would sincerely like to thank all the people, corporations and foundations who have donated to ISAND this year.

From the start of our fiscal year – July 1, 2021 to April 8, we have had contributions from ninety six donors totalling \$237,000, including donations to the new Dr. Wendy Roberts Bursary. AND would like to thank the following Individuals, Corporation and Foundations for their support:

Individuals

Alexandra Schwabe
Alpert, Jeffrey
Aly, Nasaal-Taghreed
Anderson, Lindsay & Kathy
Anonymous
Ankur, Kansal
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Arbuck, Barbara
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Buick, Cindi
Butella, Bob
Butella, Marion
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Conti, Antonietta
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Novajet
Revolution Capital
TD Bank AreaWide



WHAT IS AUTISM IS NOT

Autism is **NOT**
an illness or disease

Autism is **NOT**
temporary

Autism is **NOT**
contagious

Autism is **NOT**
caused by vaccinations

Autism is **NOT**
caused by parenting styles

Autism is **NOT** something
that disappears in adulthood



World Autism Day
Journée mondiale de l'autisme

RESOURCES

Visit our website to find out more on the following:

- Tax implication response
- Disability tax credit and other associated benefits
- Childcare expense deduction
- Medical expense tax credit

[Click here for more information](#)

“ Bryton has made such impressive progress.... The help we have received through ISAND has made an immense difference.”
– *Cicilia*

ISAND offers unique integrated approach to care

Do you know a child or young person who may benefit from ISAND services and programs?

Our clinical team of professionals includes developmental pediatricians, psychologists and clinicians from a variety of disciplines.

They work together as a team to provide a comprehensive range of services to ensure families receive fully coordinated, integrated and continuous care.

Our professional services and programs include:

- Behaviour (*Consultation, Assessment & Therapy*)
- Counselling & Support (*Individual & Family*)
- Diet & Nutrition
- Developmental Medical Care
- Early Intervention (*ESDM/NDBI*)
- Education Consultation
- Occupational Therapy (*Consultation, Assessment & Intervention*)
- Parent Education & Parent Coaching
- Psychiatric Consultation
- Psychology (*Consultation, Diagnostic & Psychoeducational Assessment*)
- Psychology (*Cognitive Based Therapy & Mindfulness Based Therapies*)
- Social Programs
- Speech-Language Therapy (*Consultation, Assessment, Intervention & AAC Support*)
- Therapeutic Yoga & Rhythmic Movement Training

We embrace the uniqueness of everyone. To learn more please call (416) 224-5959 or visit us at www.isand.ca

